

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of minimizing sticky keys in an electronic device having a body,
2 circuitry, and a plurality of keypads, the method comprising the steps of:

3 (a) providing a protectant coating; and

4 (b) applying the protectant coating on surfaces on the keypad and on the
5 body to prevent sticking between the mating surfaces.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the protectant coating comprises a hydrophobic,
2 highly anti-wetting surface treatment.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the protectant coating comprises a
2 fluoraliphatic polymer.

3 4. A method of reversibly absorbing liquid penetrations into electronic devices
4 having a body and circuitry, the method comprising:

5 providing a protectant coating;

6 applying the protectant coating on surfaces on the keypad and on the body to
7 prevent sticking between the mating surfaces;

8 providing an absorbent structure in sheet-like form; and

9 placing the absorbent structure within the electronic device such that the
10 structure covers the electronic circuitry to be protected.
11
12

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the protected coating comprises a hydrophobic,
2 highly anti-wetting surface treatment.

1
2 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the protectant coating comprises a
3 fluoraliphatic polymer.

1 7. A system for minimizing sticky keypads in electronic devices, the absorbent
2 system comprising:
3 a first protectant coating on critical surfaces of the keypad; and
4 a second protectant coating on the mating surfaces to the critical surfaces of the
5 keypad which are located in the body of the device; and
6 a water-permeable top sheet, a hydrogel-forming core, and a back sheet, the
7 combination of elements forming the absorbent structure having a defined thickness; wherein
8 the absorbent structure is characterized by having formations that allow for access to and
9 penetration of electronic and mechanical elements.

1 8. The system of claim 7 wherein the first and/or second protectant coatings
2 comprises a hydrophobic, highly anti-wetting surface treatment.

3
4 9. The system of claim 8 wherein the first and/or second protective coatings
5 comprise a fluoraliphatic polymer.

1 10. A method of minimizing sticky keys in an electronic device having a body,

2 circuitry, and a plurality of keypads, the method comprising the steps of:

3 (a) providing a protectant coating wherein the protectant coating comprises
4 a fluoraliphatic polymer; and

5 (b) applying the protectant coating on surfaces on the keypad and on the
6 body to prevent sticking between the mating surfaces.
7

1 11. A method of reversibly absorbing liquid penetrations into electronic devices
2 having a body and circuitry, the method comprising:

3 providing a protectant coating wherein the protectant coating comprises a
4 fluoraliphatic polymer;

5 applying the protectant coating on surfaces on the keypad and on the body to
6 prevent sticking between the mating surfaces;

7 providing an absorbent structure in sheet-like form; and

8 placing the absorbent structure within the electronic device such that the
9 structure covers the electronic circuitry to be protected.

1 12. A system for minimizing sticky keypads in electronic devices, the absorbent
2 system comprising:

3 a first protectant coating on critical surfaces of the keypad; and

4 a second protectant coating on the mating surfaces to the critical surfaces of the
5 keypad which are located in the body of the device wherein the first and second protective
6 coatings comprise a fluoraliphatic polymer; and

7 a water-permeable top sheet, a hydrogel-forming core, and a back sheet, the
8 combination of elements forming the absorbent structure having a defined thickness; wherein
9 the absorbent structure is characterized by having formations that allow for access to and
10 penetration of electronic and mechanical elements.